

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0729

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT ATTACKS THE WEST

1. SUMMARY: IN A RECENT SPEECH, STATE PRESIDENT DIEDERICH'S
ATTACKED THE WEST FOR COMPETING WITH THE USSR IN SEEKING TO
DESTROY SOUTH AFRICA. HIS REMARKS REFLECT A TREND TOWARD
SAG CRITICISM OF THE WEST IN GENERAL RATHER THAN SIMPLY THE
US. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCT. 10, STATE PRESIDENT N. J. DIEDERICH'S TOLD
AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUNG PRESIDENTS
ORGANIZATION THAT THE WEST WAS "ACTUALLY ASSISTING" THE
SOVIETS IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO "SUBJUGATE AFRICA BY DESTROYING
SOUTH AFRICA." IN WHAT THE PRESS DESCRIBED AS THE "MOST
SCATHING ATTACK" ON THE WEST EVER MADE BY THE PRESIDENT,
DIEDERICH'S CHARGED THAT THE WEST HAD APPARENTLY COME TO
THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ONLY WAY TO GAIN INFLUENCE IN
AFRICA WAS TO FOLLOW RUSSIA'S EXAMPLE OF CONDEMNING SOUTH
AFRICA AND ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM. "THEY TRY TO OUTDO
RUSSIA IN ATTACKING AND ABUSING SOUTH AFRICA," HE
REPORTEDLY SAID. "THE NEW PHILOSOPHY SEEMS TO BE:
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REMOVE THE COMMUNISTS AND COMMUNIST INFLUENCE FROM
AFRICA BY ATTACKING SOUTH AFRICA HARDER THAN THE
RUSSIANS DO. DEMONSTRATE YOUR FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS
BLACK AFRICA BY PROCLAIMING YOUR HATRED AGAINST
SOUTH AFRICA."

3. DIEDERICH'S CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE WEST WAS

LOSING ITS BATTLE AGAINST RUSSIA IN AFRICA BECAUSE IT DID NOTHING TO STOP THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE. "IN THE EYES OF THE BLACK MEN," HE REPORTEDLY SAID, "RUSSIA AND ITS SATELLITES ARE THE NATIONS THAT HAVE THE POWER TO RULE THE WORLD AND WILL PROBABLY EVENTUALLY DOMINATE AFRICA. IT IS BETTER TO BE ON THEIR SIDE THAN RELY ON A WEAKENED LEADERLESS WEST."

4. DIEDERICH'S SAID THE ONSLAUGHT ON SOUTH AFRICA WAS NOT BECAUSE THERE WAS A MINORITY GOVERNMENT BUT BECAUSE IT WAS A WHITE MINORITY WHICH RULED. BUT THERE WERE "STRONG INDICATIONS", HE SAID, THAT THE MAJORITY RULE IDEA WAS NOT FAVORED BY MOST OF THE BLACK PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY.

5. COMMENT: JUDGING BY PRESS ACCOUNTS, DIEDERICH'S DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ATTACK THE UNITED STATES BUT LIMITED HIS REBUKE TO THE WEST IN GENERAL. LAST YEAR, SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS IN SIMILAR SPEECHES TENDED TO SINGLE OUT THE UNITED STATES, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE A TREND TOWARD PROJECTING THE ENTIRE WEST AS THE ENEMY. ALTHOUGH PIK BOTHA'S LATEST EFFORT WAS AIMED PRIMARILY AT PRESIDENT CARTER (CAPE TOWN 0701), THE MOST RECENT SPEECHES BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER P.W. BOTHA HAVE FOCUSED ON THE WEST IN GENERAL. THIS TREND FOLLOWS SIGNS OF GROWING WESTERN OPPOSITION
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TO SAG POLICIES: THE FRENCH CANCELLATION OF ITS NAVAL SHIP SALE; THE TOUGH EEC CODE; THE NETHERLANDS DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH BREAK WITH THE LOCAL NGK; AND CANADA'S REMOVAL OF ITS TRADE REPRESENTATIVES HERE.
BOWDLER

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